

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 2, 2005. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 12 to 29 and 31 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 29 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 24, 31, 36/24 and 36/31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,594,233 (Kenneth) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,814,796 (Benson). Claims 2, 25 and 36/25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kenneth in view of Benson and further in view of JP 05169762 (Asakawa). Claims 3 to 5, 26 to 28, 36/26 to 36/28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kenneth in view of Benson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,882,127 (Amano). Claims 10, 33 and 36/33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kenneth in view of Benson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,550 (Petteruti). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 6, 9, 29, 32, 36/29 and 36/32 are allowed.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a multi-media gaming printer comprising a print module comprising a thermal card read/write head comprising a thermal write head for writing to thermally reactive media and an optical read head. The multi-media gaming printer further comprises one or more additional heads, each head for reading and writing a different type of card, the additional heads selected from the group including a magnetic strip card read/write head and a smart card connector; and a single media drive adapted to couple a card inserted into the multi-media gaming printer to the thermal card read/write head and the one or more additional heads; and a controller coupled to the thermal card read/write head and the one

or more additional heads and the single media drive, the controller adapted to manipulate the inserted card using the capabilities of the thermal card read/write head and the one or more additional heads.

Claim 24 as amended is directed to a multi-media gaming printer comprising a print module for manipulating cards comprising different types of media, the print module comprising a thermal card read/write head comprising a thermal write head for writing to thermally reactive media and an optical read head, a second head for manipulating a second type of card, wherein the second type of card is not a thermal card and a single media drive adapted to couple a card inserted into the multi-media gaming printer to each of the heads. The multi-media gaming printer further comprises a controller for controlling the print module, the controller adapted to manipulate an inserted card using the capabilities of the thermal card read/write head and the second head.

In the Office Action, it was asserted that Benson discloses a “thermal card read/write head, comprising a thermal write head and an optical read head.” Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of the disclosure of Benson. Applicants have reviewed Benson and submit that Benson does not disclose the use of a thermal card as featured in Claim 1. Specifically, Benson uses a thermal ink transfer mechanism to write to a conventional plastic card. Therefore, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 24 to clarify that the thermal read/write head is used to read and write to thermally reactive media such as a thermal card.

Furthermore, Benson fails to disclose any mechanism for reading any indication on the plastic card that was written by the thermal ink transfer mechanism. Instead, Benson only discloses that such indications are to be human readable. Thus, Benson fails to disclose or suggest a

thermal card read/write head comprising a thermal write head for writing to thermally reactive media and an optical read head.

In light of the deficiencies of the cited art as discussed above, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 24 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from one of independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

No other matters being raised, Applicants submit the entire application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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